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“One for All - All for One”.... a cohesive, collective, enhance, communicative approach to break all sectorial walls and bring all clinicians at one platform to help in building a Healthy Nation

IMA viewpoints on

“INTEGRATED MEDICINE”

Document by Action Committee, IMA Headquarters, New Delhi

Released by National President Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal

on March 22, 2023 at New Delhi

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Integrated Medicine

The Ministry of Health, Government of India has reiterated its resolve to implement Integrated Medicine. The National Educational Policy speaks of medical pluralism and provides for lateral entry and lateral exit. The Niti Aayog has been working with four committees to officially mix all the systems of medicine in medical education, clinical practice, medical research, public health and administration. National Medical Commission (NMC) has made it mandatory for medical colleges to have a specific department of Integrated medicine and plans to include mandatory alternative systems of medicine in the MBBS curriculum. It is declared that by 2030, all the 660 medical colleges will graduate 1,01,038 hybrid doctors of mixed curriculum. This disruptive policy is being inflicted on the nation silently. **“Kichadification”** of Medical education on such unscientific, baseless integration is a disastrous move and bring out incompetent doctors. Adulteration of the basic framework of medical education is unfortunate and unwarranted. Mixing of completely unrelated systems of medical systems and education would be a Medical blasphemy. Hybridization of MBBS doctors will have grave consequences on the Health of citizen of India.

INTEGRATED MEDICINE IS A POORLY THOUGHT POLICY. CONCEPT IS GOOD, BUT EXECUTION AND PLANNING NEEDS FURTHER BRAIN STORMING TO UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT.

Implementing at under graduation level will harm the citizen of country at large as this detrimental adulteration will be deprived of expertise in any Medical system. Mixing of irreconcilable systems of medicine is irrational and unscientific.

IMA respects each and every system of Medicine in its purest form and advocate for purity of all Medical systems

Modern Medicine has made huge strides in India and has to be accepted as a legacy than a colonial vestige.

- The life Expectancy of Indian has increased from 27 in 1947 to 70 in 2023.
- Infant Mortality rate and Maternal Mortality rate have decreased
- Eradication of Small Pox
- Eradication of Polio,
- Eradication of Neonatal Tetanus
- Control of Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases have contributed to this phenomenal Health achievement.
- We could stop Covid on its tracks because of the modern medicine vaccine. Modern medicine doctors manned our Pandemic services. It is estimated around 2000 modern medicine doctors laid down their lives in our war against Covid.
- Indian medical colleges are amongst the oldest in the world and are rightfully our legacy. Indian doctors are our best ambassadors and add a legion to our soft power.
- Today India is the proud capital of modern medicine effectively blending clinical medicine with evidence-based medicine.
- Indian modern medicine doctors are adequately skilled to perform any latest sophisticated surgery or procedure
- India is a much sought-after destination for medical tourism from South Asia, Gulf, Africa and even the West. Substantial foreign exchange is earned due to medical tourism linked with modern medicine surgeries and procedures
- Indian modern medicine doctors are the backbone of several Health systems across the world including UK, Gulf, US and Australia.

Adverse effect of Integrated medicine if implemented in present form-

- The negative effects of this mixing of systems will go far and shall suppress intellectual supremacy of India in international corridors.
- It Compromises patient care and patient safety. Ultimately mixing of the systems will only end up compromising the quality of care and standards of safety endangering life on a massive scale.

- Allopathy/Ayurveda/other system of AYUSH as an alternative choice will cease to exist to patients.
- Scientific identity of modern medicine stands at stake.
- Adulteration of primary undergraduate medical education with unrelated alternative systems will have ill-effects on further postgraduate education.
- NRI doctors are ambassadors of Indian diaspora exerting influence on the relationship with nations shaping global politics. It is a difficult constituency to develop yet easy to lose.
- While country aspires for healthcare quality standards through accreditation, so called integration of modern medicine is against the quality standards in healthcare system.
- Many Indian medical students pursue specializations on international grounds, diluted basic medical education will hamper the future aspirations of all medical students.
- Living up to the international standards of medical education is must for global mobility of medical students and doctors in and out of the country.
- Mixing of modern medicine with alternative systems in medical education is unsafe as students will learn completely different systems together. Output of knowledge, skills will be critically unsafe. Safety and reliability in clinical acumen and knowledge depends solely on effective education system.

IMA VIEW POINT -

Holistic wellness is complete integration of body, mind, and soul for effective state of well-being; but it is far different from planned mixing of alternative systems with modern medicine. For alternative systems to flourish, it should be practiced in its purest form.

The gross difference between holistic approach and integration or mixing is being masked in policymaking. Holistic approach towards patients is a far different story than mixing of different systems.

Holistic approach is a teamwork that connects various departments. To deliver

comprehensive healthcare delivery, we need holistic approach.

Medical education is a continuous process starting from primary undergraduate education to postgraduate and super-specialization. For world-class standard of medical education, maintaining its scientific autonomy in pure form is must.

The safety of the people shall be the highest concern. Nothing is more important than safe healthcare system for people.

Safety in healthcare begins with safety in medical education.

Conclusion:-

- **Integrated medicine approach should be at service delivery level. We should let all the systems of medicine develop its expert by studying respective system of medicine in its pure form and once they become expert then we can adopt an Integrated approach by establishing hospitals providing Integrated health facilities.**
- **Like in few AIIMS and in some corporate hospitals the emergency, critical care, surgical, super specialty treatment are being done by Allopathic and for the life style management and for some chronic diseases along with allopathic treatment, alternate medicine system like AYUSH is being used.**

Implementation in present form will seriously impair the Health of our Nation. In the process medical education and Public Health will be damaged. The cost of implementing at education level will be paid in terms of morbidity and mortality. Health indices like Life span, Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Ratio will take a hit.

IMA demands withdrawal of Integrated Medicine approach in present form at education level.

Retain Modern Medicine and Ayurveda in their pure form without mixing.

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